

**SOME ANALYSTS EVEN SAY THAT PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION CAN POSTPONE UP TO 70 PERCENT OF ALL PREMATURE DEATHS, WHEREAS THE TRADITIONAL CURATIVE AND REPARATIVE APPROACH OF MEDICINE CAN POSTPONE NO MORE THAN 10 TO 15 PERCENT OF SUCH DEATHS. EVEN IF THEY'RE ONLY HALF RIGHT, THAT'S QUITE A DIFFERENCE IN SOCIAL PAY-OFFS.**

**SECOND WE HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT THESE TWO  
APPROACHES TO HEALTH -- THAT IS, DISEASE PREVENTION AND  
HEALTH PROMOTION -- ARE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF  
EACH INDIVIDUAL.**

**PHYSICIANS AND THERAPISTS AND PHARMACISTS AND NURSES  
MUST PROVIDE AMERICANS WITH INFORMATION, SERVICE, AND  
EXAMPLES. BUT THE CRITICAL CHOICES REST WITH EACH  
INDIVIDUAL. AND THEY ARE FREE CHOICES IN NEARLY EVERY  
CASE, NOT MANDATED BY LAW -- AT LEAST NOT YET.**

**THIS TWO-FOLD CHANGE IN THE WAY WE LOOK AT HEALTH IN AMERICA HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY ABSORBED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH THEY SEEM WILLING ENOUGH TO LEARN.**

**NOW, IT'S TRUE THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH HAS ALWAYS HAD A STRONG PREVENTIVE BASE:**

**WE WERE BROUGHT UP ON VACCINATION PROGRAMS AND WATER FLUORIDATION AND BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK-UPS AND SO ON.**

**NEVERTHELESS, I THINK THE OVERALL PERCEPTION AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IS STILL AN OLD-FASHIONED ONE: THAT IS, THAT PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL AND NURSING PERSONNEL ARE REALLY ON THE JOB TO PATCH YOU UP IF YOU GET HURT OR TO CURE YOU IF YOU GET SICK. IN OTHER WORDS, THE PATIENT IS PASSIVE AND THE HEALTH SYSTEM IS THE ONLY ACTIVE PARTY.**

**I THINK THE PUBLIC STILL ADHERES TO THE IDEA THAT THE  
PATIENT IS SUPPOSED TO "FOLLOW THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS," OR  
"FOLLOW THE DRUGGIST'S ORDERS".**

**OF COURSE, BY "FOLLOWING THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS," THE  
PATIENT WILL DO THOSE THINGS THAT WILL HELP HIM OR HER  
REGAIN THE LOST STATUS OF FULL HEALTH.**

**WE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONS HAVE BEEN  
DILIGENTLY TRYING TO TURN THAT CONVENTIONAL WISDOM  
AROUND. AND I THINK WE ARE!**

**I THINK WE'RE MAKING GREAT STRIDES IN THE ANTI-SMOKING  
AREA.**

**THE PERCENTAGE OF THE ADULT POPULATION WHO SMOKES IS  
STEADILY DECLINING AND THAT'S EXCELLENT.**

**YOU CAN ASSUME A POSITION IN THE FRONT LINES, BY  
WORKING, FOR INSTANCE, TO REMOVE TOBACCO PRODUCTS  
FROM VENDING MACHINES AND FROM PHARMACIES.**

**THERE'S ALSO BEEN A DROP IN THE CONSUMPTION OF HARD LIQUOR, WITH A SHIFT TO BEER AND WINE -- OR SIMPLY WATER. AS A RESULT, THERE'S BEEN A DRAMATIC DROP IN CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE AND CIRRHOSIS MORTALITY IN GENERAL.**

**PEOPLE SEEM TO BE EATING LESS FAT, PARTICULARLY SATURATED FAT AND CHOLESTEROL. THE DROP IN CIGARETTE SMOKING AND THE REDUCTIONS IN FAT IN THE AVERAGE PERSON'S DIET HAVE COMBINED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DECLINE IN HEART DISEASE AND STROKE DEATHS OVER THE PAST 10 TO 15 YEARS AS WELL. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.**

**SO I THINK WE CAN FEEL ENCOURAGED ABOUT THE TRENDS SO FAR.**

**THE BIG QUESTION REMAINS, HOWEVER: ARE THEY REALLY TRENDS ... OR ARE THEY TEMPORARY ARTIFACTS OF A DYNAMIC CULTURE?**

**WE NEED TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES ABOUT LIFESTYLE, ABOUT PHYSICAL EXERCISE, ABOUT DIET.**



**WHEN WE CONVINCED OURSELVES TO EAT A PROPER DIET,  
TO AVOID FOODS HIGH IN FAT, SUGAR, AND SODIUM,  
TO SAY "NO!" TO DRUGS LIKE ALCOHOL AND NICOTINE,  
WE TAKE CHARGE OF OUR HEALTH.**

**WHEN WE SAY THAT THE BEST WAY TO BEAT HEART DISEASE IS  
THROUGH ROUTINE EXERCISE, NO SMOKING, AND A  
HEALTHFUL DIET,  
THAT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY OF TELLING PEOPLE,  
"DON'T RELY COMPLETELY ON HIGH-COST HIGH-TECH MEDICINE  
TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.**

**YOU CAN AFFORD PREVENTION ... YOU CANNOT AFFORD A  
QUADRUPLE  
BY-PASS."**

**IN THE FUTURE AMERICANS WILL SIMPLY NOT HAVE THE  
DOLLARS TO PAY THE VERY HIGH PRICE EXACTED BY LIFESTYLES  
OF THOUGHTLESSNESS AND HIGH RISK.**

**I KNOW THIS SOUNDS TERRIBLY CHEERLESS, BUT I DON'T THINK  
IT HAS TO BE.**

**TO BORROW A MOTTO FROM AN EARLIER AGE:**

**"LIVING WELL IS THE BEST REVENGE."**

**LIVING WELL ... LIVING SENSIBLY ... LIVING A HEALTHY**

**LIFESTYLE ... LIVING ACCORDING TO AN ETHIC OF PREVENTION ...**

**THIS IS YOUR "BEST REVENGE" AGAINST THE 3 D'S OF**

**DISCOMFORT, DISEASE, AND DISABILITY.**

**AND IT'S YOUR BEST HEDGE AGAINST THE 4TH AND FINAL D:  
DEATH ITSELF.**

**HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS ALIKE  
CAN EMBRACE A LARGER VISION OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND  
DISEASE PREVENTION. WE ARE ALLIES AS WE ASSUME LEADING  
ROLES IN THIS NEW HEALTH REVOLUTION IN AMERICA AS WE  
PREPARE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.**

**THANK YOU**

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**NOW, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO TALK ABOUT  
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH.**

**FOR MOST OF MY SURGICAL CAREER, I WAS INVOLVED IN  
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH WORK. BUT IT WAS ONLY DURING MY  
TENURE AS SURGEON GENERAL OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH  
SERVICE, THAT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK CLOSELY  
WITH THE LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF THE WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION.**

**THE EXPERIENCE HAS REINFORCED MANY TIMES OVER MY  
BELIEF THAT  
W.H.O. IS NOT ONLY AN AGENCY WHOSE EXISTENCE IS ESSENTIAL  
TO WORLD HEALTH, BUT IS ALSO AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS HAVE EVEN  
EXCEEDED THE GREAT HOPES THAT ATTENDED ITS BIRTH.  
AND IT HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY A POWERFUL CONCEPT ... "THAT  
HEALTH, GOOD OR ILL, COULD NEVER AGAIN BE PURELY A  
NATIONAL PHENOMENON."**



**THE HEALTH STATUS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD --  
WHETHER THEY LIVE IN DEVELOPED OR DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES -- AFFECTS ALL OTHERS. IT WAS THEREFORE IN THE  
INTEREST OF ALL NATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS  
THE TOTALITY OF WORLD HEALTH PROBLEMS.**

**AS WE LOOK AT OUR WORLD TODAY, WE SEE THAT ENORMOUS  
PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE FOUR DECADES DURING  
WHICH W.H.O. EVOLVED FROM A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
AGENCY, PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASES CONTROL, TO A PARTNER OF ALL NATIONS IN THE  
SUPPORT OF NATIONAL GOALS FOR HEALTH FOR ALL.**

- o **WE HAVE IMPROVED OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS AND  
MADE HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO A DEGREE  
UNKNOWN 40 YEARS AGO.**
  
- o **TODAY, THANKS TO A VERY ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL W.H.O.  
EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION, THERE IS  
EXCELLENT VACCINATION COVERAGE AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS,  
DIPHThERIA, TETANUS, WHOOPING COUGH, MEASLES, AND  
TUBERCULOSIS.**

- o LIFE EXPECTANCY HAS RISEN FROM A WORLDWIDE AVERAGE OF 41 YEARS IN 1950 TO 61 YEARS TODAY.**
  
- o AND, WHILE FAR TOO MANY CHILDREN STILL DIE BEFORE THE AGE OF FIVE, THE WORLD IS CERTAINLY A SAFER PLACE FOR CHILDREN. THE NUMBER OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN WHO DIE BEFORE THE AGE OF FIVE IS MANY MILLIONS LESS TODAY THAN THE NUMBER WHO DIED DURING THE 1950'S, EVEN THOUGH THE TOTAL CHILD POPULATION IN THE WORLD HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED.**

**AND, AT THE REQUEST OF MEMBER NATIONS, W.H.O. HAS NOW  
LAUNCHED A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ELIMINATE POLIO  
EVERYWHERE. POLIO MAY WELL BECOME THE SECOND DISEASE  
TO BE ERADICATED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF MANKIND,  
FOLLOWING SMALLPOX ON THE ROAD TO EXTINCTION.**

**ORAL REHYDRATION THERAPY IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO  
BECOMING ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY. IT IS BECOMING SO  
EFFECTIVE THAT THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INFANTS AND  
CHILDREN ARE BEING SPARED. THE THERAPY, OF COURSE, IS  
BASED ON A SIMPLE SOLUTION OF WATER, SUGAR, AND SALTS ...  
A FORMULA DEVISED BY W.H.O. SCIENTISTS.**

**THE WORK ON MALARIA ALSO CONTINUES TO HOLD PROMISE  
THAT THIS DISEASE, TOO, WILL ONE DAY BE CONQUERED. FROM  
ITS CREATION, W.H.O. HAS TARGETED THIS DISEASE. AND  
DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES OF MALARIA CONTROL, WE CAN  
REMAIN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE.**

**THESE SUCCESS STORIES ARE IMPRESSIVE. BUT IF ANYTHING,  
THEY SHOULD SERVE AS A STIMULUS TO US TO DO BETTER.  
THEY MUST NOT BE AN EXCUSE FOR COMPLACENCY.**

**WE KNOW ALL TOO WELL THAT VICTORY OVER DISEASE IS OFTEN  
COUNTER-BALANCED BY THE APPEARANCE OF NEW THREATS AND  
NEW DISEASES.**

**WE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING THIS WITH AIDS AS A WORLDWIDE  
EPIDEMIC.**

**AIDS THREATENS EVERY NATION AND PRESENTS AN  
UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC  
HEALTH. EACH COUNTRY AFFECTED THAT CONFRONTS THIS NEW  
HEALTH PROBLEM MAY DISCOVER IT MAY NEED TO RESPOND  
WITH RESOURCES OF SO GREAT A MAGNITUDE THAT IT CAN  
DEVASTATE THE VERY HEALTH SYSTEM IT IS TRYING TO  
STRENGTHEN.**

**IN DEVELOPING NATIONS, AIDS TENDS TO IMPACT MOST OFTEN  
ON THE MOST PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY: THE  
BREADWINNERS IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIVES HENCE,  
DEVELOPING NATIONS HIT BY AIDS COULD LOSE AN  
IRREPLACEABLE GENERATION OF ENGINEERS, HEALTH  
WORKERS, TEACHERS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS  
WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND TRADE.**

**AIDS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO DEVASTATE A DEVELOPING  
COUNTRY'S PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT.**



**A TOP PRIORITY FOR W.H.O. AND THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD IS  
TO MAKE THE WORLD'S BLOOD SUPPLY SAFE FOR TRANSFUSION.**

**THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST AIDS WILL TAKE MANY YEARS, AND  
IT WILL REQUIRE POLITICAL AND HEALTH LEADERS ALIKE TO  
HAVE THE STRENGTH OF COMMITMENT NECESSARY TO MAKE  
DIFFICULT DECISIONS, TO STAND FIRM AGAINST UNREASONABLE  
FEAR, AND TO MAINTAIN THE CONSISTENCY AND UNITY OF  
ACTION THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY VITAL FOR A GLOBAL FIGHT  
AGAINST THIS GLOBAL THREAT.**

**LIKE AIDS, THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF SMOKING HAVE  
BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM. AND, I'M SORRY TO  
ADMIT, THE UNITED STATES HAS PLAYED A SINISTER ROLE IN  
THIS TRAGEDY.**

**THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE CIGARETTE COMPANIES -  
- AMERICAN COMPANIES AND THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS -  
- ARE EXPLOITING THE UNPROTECTED MARKETS OF THE THIRD  
WORLD: ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AFRICA, AND CENTRAL AND  
SOUTH AMERICA.**

**AND THEY ARE VERY EFFECTIVE, I MIGHT ADD. THEY HAVE  
INUNDATED THOSE UNDEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
WITH CIGARETTE ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION TO SUCH AN  
EXTENT THAT CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION IN THOSE COUNTRIES  
IS ON THE RISE.**

**AND ALSO ON THE RISE ARE THE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY  
RATES FOR SUCH SMOKING-RELATED DISEASES AS STROKE,  
HEART DISEASE, AND CANCERS OF THE LUNG, MOUTH,  
ESOPHAGUS, AND STOMACH.**

**AND I MUST ADD THAT THIS EXPORT OF DEATH AND DISEASE HAS  
BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT -- OUR TRADE REPRESENTATIVES, OUR STATE  
DEPARTMENT, OUR COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, AND OUR  
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.**

**IT'S NOT A VERY PRETTY STORY. BUT THERE IT IS.**

**THE ALARMING THING ABOUT THIS HABIT IS THAT, WHEN IT  
INVADES A NEW MARKET, IT DOES SO WITH IMMENSE SPEED AND  
IMPACT. ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION,  
BETWEEN 1971 AND 1981 CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION INCREASED  
IN ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA AT A RATE 30 PERCENT AHEAD OF  
THE RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE ... IN AFRICA, IT ROSE 77  
PERCENT AHEAD OF THE RISE IN POPULATION.**

**BUT THOSE AMERICAN CIGARETTES ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT  
OVERSEAS: FOR ONE THING, THEY DON'T CARRY THE SURGEON  
GENERAL'S WARNING. AND FOR ANOTHER, MANY AMERICAN  
CIGARETTES MANUFACTURED FOR EXPORT HAVE A HIGHER TAR  
CONTENT AND ARE, THEREFORE, EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN  
THE LOWER-TAR, FULLY-LABELLED PRODUCTS SOLD HERE IN  
THE UNITED STATES.**

**NOW, LET ME MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I JUST SAID.**

**I SAID THAT SOME AMERICAN CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS -- AS**

**KNOWLEDGEABLE AS I AM, CONCERNING THE HEALTH RISKS OF**

**SMOKING -- KNOWINGLY PRODUCE A MORE HARMFUL**

**CIGARETTE FOR EXPORT THAN THEY PRODUCE FOR DOMESTIC**

**CONSUMPTION.**

**JUST A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, 15 ASIAN COUNTRIES  
REPORTED THAT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WAS NO LONGER THE  
NUMBER ONE PUBLIC HEALTH MENACE IN ASIA.  
TODAY, THE TOP THREE CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASIA ARE -- CAN  
YOU GUESS? -- THE SAME THREE SMOKING-RELATED CAUSES OF  
DEATH THAT PREVAIL HERE IN THE UNITED STATES: HEART  
DISEASE, CANCER, AND STROKE.**



**IN OTHER WORDS, THE TOBACCO EPIDEMIC AND ITS LETHAL  
CONSEQUENCES HAVE HIT ASIA ... AND -- THANKS TO OUR OWN  
CIGARETTE INDUSTRY AND THAT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM--  
HAVE HIT ASIA HARD.**

**I DO NOT BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES WILL EVER AGAIN BE A  
GOOD MARKET FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS. THE CURVE IS GOING  
DOWN AND ACCELERATING. AND I FEEL QUITE GOOD ABOUT THE  
ROLE I BELIEVE I PLAYED IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS MARKET  
CHANGE.**

**I THINK THAT WE HAVE BEATEN THE CIGARETTE INDUSTRY ON  
ITS OWN HOME TURF ... BUT WE'VE DRIVEN THEM TO SCOUR THE  
REST OF THE EARTH FOR NEW VICTIMS.**

**IT IS A TERRIBLE BURDEN FOR THE CONSCIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES. BUT WE WILL HAVE TO BEAR IT UNTIL WE FIND A WAY TO END, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THE PUBLIC HEALTH HAVOC CREATED BY TOBACCO EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD.**

**MY ONE REGRET IS THAT I LEFT OFFICE JUST AS THE FIGHT IS BEGINNING TO RID THE REST OF THE WORLD OF THE SCOURGE OF TOBACCO AS WELL. IT'S A SHAME, BECAUSE I REALLY FEEL UP TO IT.**

**OUR EFFORTS TO HELP THE ENTIRE WORLD ABOUT THE THREATS  
POSED BY AIDS AND SMOKING DEPEND ONLY ON EDUCATION  
AND PREVENTION.**

**THAT'S THE NEW --AND OLD-- HEALTH MESSAGE OF THE 1990S.**

**THANK YOU**

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